



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
(212) 637-2600

**BLOODS LEADER CONVICTED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT  
OF RACKETEERING CHARGES TIED TO POINT-BLANK SHOOTING**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the conviction of DUSHON FOSTER, a/k/a "Bloody Jah," a/k/a "Jah Bee" -- a leader of the United Blood Nation, commonly known as the Bloods -- of racketeering and firearms charges. The Bloods is a violent street and prison gang that operates along the East Coast of the United States. The verdict was returned by a jury today after an eight-day trial before United States District Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD.

The jury convicted DUSHON FOSTER, 32, of participating in a conspiracy to commit assault and assault with a deadly weapon resulting in serious bodily injury, all in aid of the Bloods racketeering enterprise, as well as his discharge of a firearm in connection with the assault, stemming from a gang-related shooting. On August 22, 2000, FOSTER shot a 16-year old boy in the face from point blank range.

The proof at trial showed that FOSTER is a high ranking member of the Bloods gang. In this regard, FOSTER is a "general" in the Bloods gang - meaning he has power to order regular members of the Bloods to commit acts of violence. Additionally, the evidence showed that he is a direct associate of Omar Portee, a/k/a "OG Mack," who founded the Bloods in 1993 while incarcerated in Rikers Island in order to amass power among the inmate population. FOSTER is also the boyfriend of Paulette McCartha, a/k/a "OG P-Ditty," the leader of all female members of the Bloods.

After founding the Bloods, Portee and other members of the Bloods organized the gang into smaller units or sub-groups, each of which is known as a "set." Each set has a different name. These sets include "One-Eight-Trey," "One-Eight-Trey Wildstones," "Sex, Money & Murder," "5-9 Brim," "Valentine Bloods," and "Gangsta Killer Bloods." Additionally, Portee created a hierarchical membership structure and titles for leaders of the Bloods gang. For example, a member of the Bloods who has gained the respect of other members as a result of past criminal acts is called an "OG," which stands for "Original Gangsta." Right below the OGs are generals. OGs and generals direct and lead other Bloods and have the power to order others to commit acts of violence. FOSTER is a general in the "One-Eight-Trey Wildstones." The proof at trial showed that the Bloods are a racketeering enterprise engaged in attempted murder, robberies, assaults, shootings, narcotics trafficking, interstate

travel for the purpose of prostitution, credit card fraud, and identity theft.

According to the evidence, on or about August 22, 2000, McCartha's daughter was involved in a gang-related fight in the Bronx, during which she was slashed in the face. McCartha, who is an OG, labeled everyone associated with the slashing "food," which is Bloods code for a person who must be "eaten," or attacked, by all members of the Bloods. Shortly thereafter, FOSTER approached a 16 year old believed to be associated with the slashing and shot him in the face. The proof at trial established that the barrel of FOSTER's gun was between 2 and 6 inches from the victim's face. The victim, who survived, was later treated at a Bronx hospital, where bullet fragments were removed from his mouth.

FOSTER was originally indicted on May 7, 2001, along with 14 others, including Portee, a/k/a "OG Mack," and McCartha, a/k/a "OG P-Ditty."

On August 28, 2002, Portee was convicted after trial of 10 counts in total -- one count of racketeering, one count of racketeering conspiracy, one count of conspiracy to commit murder in aid of racketeering, one count of being a felon in possession of an AK-47 semi-automatic assault weapon, one count of assault in aid of racketeering, one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, one count of conspiracy to distribute marijuana, one count of the distribution of marijuana, one count of conspiracy to commit credit card fraud, and one count of

conspiracy to commit identity theft. Sentencing for Portee, who faces mandatory life imprisonment, is scheduled to occur on April 7, 2000, at 4:00 P.M.

On April 15, 2002, McCartha pled guilty to racketeering charges, two separate conspiracies to commit murder (including the conspiracy that resulted in FOSTER shooting the 16-year old), and extortion. Judge Buchwald sentenced McCartha on October 9, 2002, to 144 months' imprisonment.

Sentencing for FOSTER is scheduled for July 10, 2003, in front of Judge BUCHWALD. He faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Mr. COMEY praised the outstanding investigative efforts of the New York City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys DANIEL M. GITNER and ELIZABETH F. MARINGER are in charge of the prosecution.

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